

Appl. No. 10/050,941

- 5 -

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

First, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the July 15, 2005 telephone interview.

Further to the interview, Applicant provides herewith an amended claim 1, which overcomes the prior art rejections raised in the Final Office Action. As discussed during the interview, the subject matter of claim 9 has been incorporated in claim 1. The amendment to claim 1 introduces the limitation that the collected light is spectrally separated into individual wavelengths and directed at distinct locations on a CCD camera to simultaneously detect the individual wavelength signals.

Feng et al. was cited to reject claim 9 on the basis that Feng et al. discloses the use of a CCD camera. While Feng et al. disclose the use of a CCD camera, there is no teaching of directing individual wavelength signals at distinct locations of a CCD camera.

In Feng et al., optical fiber bundles are distributed around a ring to collect light exiting from an object and the collected light is then directed to a detector, which can be a CCD camera (column 7, lines 45-57). The optical fiber bundles can be coupled to multiple detectors, or alternatively, a single detector can be moved along an axis to sequentially collect the signals from different optical fiber bundles (column 7, lines 53-57). Feng et al. provides for multiple laser diodes, each acting as a light source to obtain signals of different wavelength. However, each diode is activated in sequence "... the time sequence of excitation around the ring of light emitting diodes... is used to indicate which source is active at a given time." (column 9, lines 34-37). Thus, only one wavelength is detected at a time. Therefore, there is no teaching in Feng et al. of spectrally separating the collected light to direct the individual wavelength signals at distinct locations on a CCD camera, as claimed in amended claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to replace "detecting" with "collecting" to track the language of amended claim 1.

Appl. No. 10/050,941

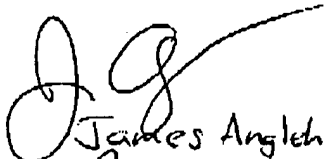
- 6 -

Claim 14 has also been amended to specify an optical guiding device for directing the wavelength signals at distinct locations on said CCD camera.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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